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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
BRAZIL

IPF:(1992-96) $14 183 000

(BRA/92/020) - Improvement and Modernization of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Systems in Brazil

Date of approval by the AC:1/	24 March 1993
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	EMBRAPA (Brazilian Company for Agricultural Research)
Government cost sharing:	$ 9 708 700
Total UNDP budget:	$ 9 708 700

Project background

Rural Population in Brazil is approximately 25 percent of the total 150 million inhabitants and the direct sectoral product is about 10 percent of GNP. However, intersectoral relations indicate that agriculture is the sector with the greatest linkage to other economic activities, thus accounting for 40 percent of GNP when considering the sector as a whole, and for 40 percent of Brazilian exports. Traditionally, agricultural services were characterized for a high degree of centralization at the Federal Level and for lack of adequate coordination between the agricultural research system and the rural extension system, which were adjunct to different institutions.

The new Constitution of 1988 and the administrative reform of 1990, had profound effects in the provision of agricultural services. It decentralized a substantial portion of Federal responsabilities related to technical assistance and rural extension to states and municipalities; and it consolidated both agricultural research and rural extension services into one institution, the Brazilian Company of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA). This broad institutional reorganization of the entities responsible for the generation and transfer of agricultural technology in Brazil has induced deep changes in work methods and procedures at managerial and operational levels. It has also led to a demand for qualitative improvement in performance, in response to redefined government agricultural policy which specifically indicates the need for an accelerated and generalized modernization of the agricultural sector.

As a result EMBRAPA is seeking the effective integration of research and rural extension activities, the decentralization of these services to the states and municipalities, the development of new methods of grassroots participation to validate research results and agricultural practices, and the adaptation of research and extension

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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activities to specific agroecological and socieconomic conditions of local producers, particularly small and medium farmers. To reach the national objective of making the agricultural sector more productive and competitive, the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval. The project is related to area #2 of the Fifth Country Programme for Brazil, namely "modernization of the productive sector".

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) improve the Brazilian systems of technical assistance and rural extension (SIBRATER)'s institutional capacity for the transfer of agricultural technology; (b) develop and improve new technology generation and transfer processes at municipal/regional levels; (c) install and train 27 state research/extension teams to work in the formulation of agricultural policies (bottom up approach); and d) coordinate and supervise state technical-financial cooperation programmes.

Project activities will include: (a) implementing five Regional Support Units on technical assistance, extension and rural development; a managerial research/extension information system; and technical and modern communication means didactically applied at the National Systems of Agriculture Research/Brazilian System of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (SNPA/SIBRATER); (b) testing, demonstrating and disseminating through the implementation of five pilot areas new working processes and methodologies; and (c) training technical staff, educators and leaders on technological and operational topics for rural development (about 1220 persons), on the use of multimedia (50 educators) and on information/computerization (250 managers experts and trainers).

Inputs

UNDP will provide 43 work-months of international consultants (information/computerization, monitoring/evaluation, didactical unit architecture and others); 147 work-months of national consultants and 324 work-months of national experts (management of technical assistance and rural extension programmes with specialization in planning, monitoring/evaluation, multimedia, methodology and rural communication and organization); 492 work-months of OPAS experts who will receive training in science and technology); 972 work-months of administrative posts for documentation/information support activities; training in related rural development matters and computerized; and remote sensing and audio-visual equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	2 996 200
Subcontract	490 000
Training	3 492 000
Equipment	2 164 000
Miscellaneous	566 500
Total	9 708 700

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